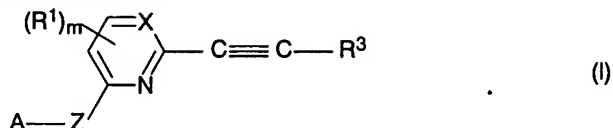


A P P E N D I X I:

THE LISTING OF CLAIMS (version with markings, showing the changes made):

- B¹ 1. (currently amended) A method of combating undesired plant growth at a locus, comprising application to the locus of an effective amount of at least one compound of formula (I)



wherein

X represents N or CR²;

R¹ each independently represent a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy[7] group or a haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano, nitro or SF₅ group; or -S(O)_p-R⁴, in which p is 0, 1 or 2, and R⁴ represents an alkyl or haloalkyl group; or -NR⁵R⁶, in which R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl or aryl group, or R⁷O-CY-, in which R⁷ represents an alkyl group, and Y represents O or S;

R² represents a hydrogen atom or has the meaning given for R¹;

R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a formyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, trihydrocarbylsilyl or aryl group, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

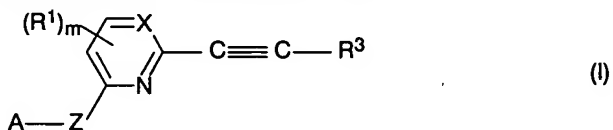
A represents an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group or an optionally substituted thienyl group;

Z represents an oxygen or sulfur atom [~~or a single bond~~]; and

m is 0, 1 or 2;

[~~and the~~] or an agronomically acceptable [~~salts~~] salt or [~~N-oxides~~] N-oxide thereof.

2. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

X represents N or CR²;

B¹ R¹ each independently represent a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy group or a haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano, nitro or SF₅ group; or -S(O)_p-R⁴, in which p is 0, 1 or 2, and R⁴ represents an alkyl or haloalkyl group; or -NR⁵R⁶, in which R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl or aryl group, or R⁷O-CY-, in which R⁷ represents an alkyl group, and Y represents O or S;

R² represents a hydrogen atom or has the meaning given for R¹;

R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a formyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, trihydrocarbylsilyl or aryl group, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

A represents an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group or an optionally substituted thienyl group;

Z represents an oxygen or sulfur atom [~~or a single bond~~]; and

m is [0,] 1 or 2;

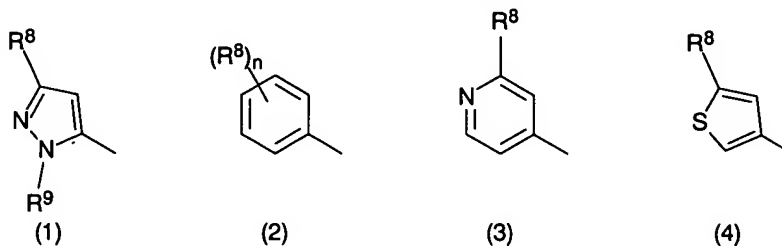
~~[with the proviso, that~~

~~bis-(2-ethynyl pyrid-6-yloxy)-1,3-benzene, bis-[2-(2-trimethyl-silyl-ethynyl)pyrid-6-yloxy]-1,3-benzene, bis-[2-(3,3-dimethyl-3-hydroxy-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrid-6-yloxy]-1,3-benzene, bis-((2-ethynyl-pyrid-6-yloxy)-4-phenyl)-2,2-propane, bis-((2-ethynyl-pyrid-6-yloxy)-4-phenyl)-2,2-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane, and bis-((2-ethynyl-pyrid-6-yloxy)-4-phenyl)-sulfur are excluded]~~

~~[and the]~~ or an agronomically acceptable [~~salts~~] salt or ~~[N-oxides]~~ N-oxide thereof.

3. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein Z represents an oxygen atom.
4. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R³ represents a phenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or alkyl or haloalkyl groups.
5. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R³ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₂₋₆ alkenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms and/or C₁₋₄ alkoxy groups.
6. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein A represents an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl or pyrazolyl group.

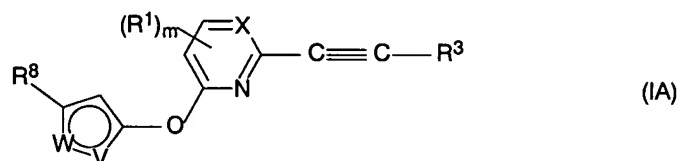
7. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 6, wherein A represents a group selected from formulae (1), (2), (3), and (4):



wherein

- R^8 each independently represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group;
 R^9 represents an alkyl group; and
 n represents an integer of 1 to 5.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 which is of formula IA



~~wherein [X, R^1 and R^8 have the meaning given in any of the preceding claims]~~

R^3 represents a formyl group or an alkyl, alkenyl group or an optionally substituted aryl or 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

W-V represents N-CH, S-CH, N-CH-CH, CH-CH-CH or [N-NR⁷] N-NR⁹;
[and]

m is ~~[0-5]~~ 1;

R^8 represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group; and

R^9 represents an alkyl group.

9. (currently amended) A compound ~~[according to any of the preceding claims]~~ selected from the group consisting of

2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyridine;

4-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-6-methyl-2-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyrimidine;

2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-6-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyridine;

4-methoxy-2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-6-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyridine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(2-trimethylsilylethynyl)-pyridine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethynyl]-pyridine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethynyl]-pyridine;
 6-ethynyl-2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethylpyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methylpyridine;
~~[2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(4-methylpent-1-yn-3-enyl)-pyridine]~~
2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(4-methylpent-1-yn-3-enyl)-pyridine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(3,3-diethoxyprop-1-ynyl)-pyridine; and
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(2-formylethynyl)-pyridine.

10. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of [a] the compound of formula I according to [Claim] claim 2, which comprises [a] reacting a respective compound of formula II,



in which [~~R¹, A, X, Z and m have the meaning given and~~] L represents a suitable leaving group,

with a compound of [~~general~~] formula III,



in which [~~R³ has the meaning given, and~~] Met represents a hydrogen or metal atom or an alkylmetal group.

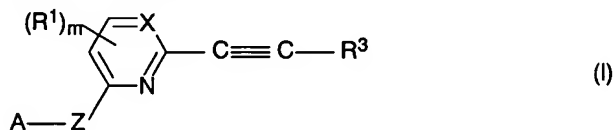
11. (currently amended) A herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound of [~~general~~] formula I [~~, as claimed in claim 1, together with~~] according to claim 2 and a carrier.
12. (original) A composition as claimed in claim 11, comprising at least two carriers, at least one of which is a surface-active agent.

13. (canceled)

14. (new) A herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 9 and a carrier.

B'

15. (new) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

X represents N or CR²;

R¹ each independently represent a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy group or a haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano, nitro or SF₅ group; or -S(O)_p-R⁴, in which p is 0, 1 or 2, and R⁴ represents an alkyl or haloalkyl group; or -NR⁵R⁶, in which R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl or aryl group, or R⁷O-CY-, in which R⁷ represents an alkyl group, and Y represents O or S;

R² represents a hydrogen atom or has the meaning given for R¹;

R³ represents a formyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, trihydrocarbylsilyl or aryl group, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

A represents an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group or an optionally substituted thienyl group;

Z represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; and

m is 0, 1 or 2;

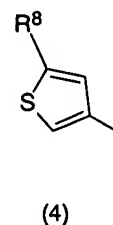
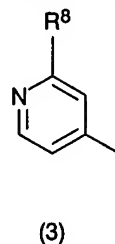
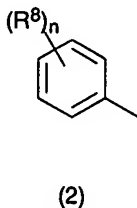
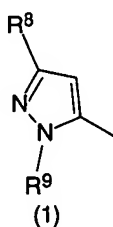
with the proviso, that

bis-[2-(2-trimethylsilylethynyl)pyrid-6-yloxy]-1,3-benzene and bis-[2-(3,3-dimethyl-3-hydroxyprop-1-ynyl)-pyrid-6-yloxy]-1,3-benzene are excluded;

or an agronomically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.

16. (new) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R³ represents a phenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or alkyl or haloalkyl groups.

17. (new) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-6} alkenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy groups.
18. (new) A compound according to claim 15, wherein A represents an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl or pyrazolyl group.
19. (new) A compound according to claim 18, wherein A represents a group selected from formulae (1), (2), (3), and (4):



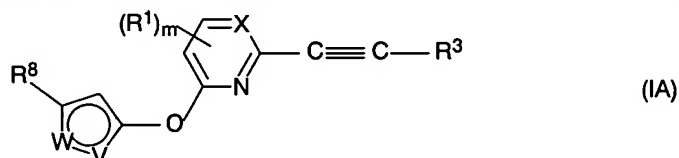
wherein

R^8 each independently represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group;

R^9 represents an alkyl group; and

n represents an integer of 1 to 5.

20. (new) A compound according to claim 15 which is of formula IA



wherein

R^3 represents a formyl group or an alkyl, alkenyl group or an optionally substituted aryl or 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

W-V represents N-CH, S-CH, N-CH-CH, CH-CH-CH or N-NR⁹;

m is 0 or 1;

R^8 represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group; and

R^9 represents an alkyl group.